

# Initial Questions and Answers for Parents Interested in a Middle School Magnet and College Preparatory 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> STEM Campus

[McKinley Tech High School](#) is a citywide application school located in Ward 5. McKinley's vision is to become the highest performing high school in the nation through the integration of a rigorous college preparatory and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curricula, taught by master teachers, that prepares students for the challenges of the ever-changing and competitive global market. It is the STEM high school for the district offering a comprehensive school experience and specialized instruction opportunities in biotechnology, engineering, information technology and mass media technology. McKinley's STEM curriculum, state of the art technology and emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving make it particularly desirable for students interested in the math and science field. The STEM 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade option will be a rigorous academic experience that will offer the opportunity for middle school students to enroll in Algebra, World Language and other competitive academic offerings preparing them for high school.

## **Q. What percentage of Ward 5 students attend McKinley Tech?**

A. As a snapshot, a little less than 40% of the 10<sup>th</sup> graders in SY2010-2011 are residents of Ward 5.

## **Q. I am concerned that my 6<sup>th</sup> grader would be in the same school as 12<sup>th</sup> graders. How will DCPS deal with students of vastly different ages traveling throughout the hallways?**

A. We are dedicated to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all students. There are a number of ways to structure the physical space, assignment of classrooms, schedule, and procedures in a 6–12 campus to maintain such an environment. The [Columbia Heights Education Campus](#) provides an excellent model for how a 6–12 campus can operate.

## **Q. If this is a STEM school, will my child still be able to take world languages and art offerings?**

A. Students at schools with themes or a particular curricular focus still have the opportunity to learn all of the core subjects, including not just English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, but also world languages, art, music, and physical education.